

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When retrieving similar multimedia object data  
from a multimedia object database on the basis of the  
retrieval condition set by a user, a retrieval  
5 condition setting area for retrieval condition setting  
is displayed as an independent area. Then, a retrieval  
condition is set on the basis of multimedia object data  
which has been set in or which has been input to the  
retrieval condition setting area.